



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 31, 2002

H.R. 2486

Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2001

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on May 22, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 2486 would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve its ability to forecast inland flooding through research and modeling. The bill would direct the agency to create and implement a flood warning index, train government and other personnel to use new forecasting methodologies, and conduct outreach and education. Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1.15 million for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007 for grants to develop forecasting models.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$5 million over the 2003-2007 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 2486 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2486 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by H.R. 2486 will be appropriated by the beginning of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar grant programs.

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning					
Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1

- a. NOAA's National Weather Service received \$642 million in operating funds from fiscal year 2002 appropriations, about \$1.5 million of which was for advanced hydrological forecasting activities similar to those authorized by H.R. 2486.
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PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 2486 contains no mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by authorizing a total of \$1.25 million in grant funding over the 2003-2007 period to institutions of higher education, including public universities, for developing models for improved flood forecasts. Any costs incurred by states would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

H.R. 2486 would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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